Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, during the Rabi Season of 2003-04.

New CNG pumps

1476. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the CNG price in future; and

(b) the details of new CNG Pumps proposed to be set up in the country during the next year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) CNG prices are linked to natural gas prices which are envisaged to be fully market related in future.

(b) There are a number of companies, both in public sector and private sector, who are engaged in City Gas Distribution Projects in different States. Number of CNG stations that would be set up in a phased manner would depend upon the number of vehicles that may convert to CNG.

Ethanol blending in Uttar Pradesh

1477. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, which is a sugarcane producing State, having large number of sugar mills, has been given license for ethanol blending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when, it is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The

Government of India have issued directives to the oil companies to sell only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in the State of Uttar Pradesh *w.e.f.* 1.10.2003. Accordingly only 5% ethanol blended petrol is being sold in the entire State. Licenses for ethanol production are issued by the State Governments.

Mechanism to check quality of fuel

1478. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders to ask the oil companies to demonstrate the quality of fuel supplied to petrol bunk owners who are generally held responsible for supplying adulterated petrol and diesel to the customers;

(b) whether Government have introduced any mechanism to check the quality of fuel supplied by the oil companies; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to facilitate Dealers to check the quality of fuel supplied by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), they are provided with the equipment for testing density of the product at the time of receipt and OMCs indicate density and temperature on the invoice. OMCs have also introduced 3 tier sampling system and new tank truck locking system to ensure that the dealers receive correct quality of product supplied by the OMCs.

Growth in Petroleum Refinery Products

1479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum refinery products registered a higher growth of 6.1 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, what are the estimates made for the fiscal year; and

(c) what are the expected achievements to be made by the year end?